



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
2005**

**Grade 8
Reading**

Reading

- 1 In the word automatic, what does the prefix *auto-* mean?

- A. signal
- B. change
- C. self
- D. movement

Use the definitions below to answer the question.

range (*rānj*) *n.* 1. an area in which an activity takes place 2. an area for testing rockets and missiles 3. an open land on which livestock graze 4. an extent or amount of variation

- 2 Amanda took singing lessons to extend her range.

Which is the **best** definition of the word range as it is used in this sentence?

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

Robert Ballard's love of the sea turned into an interesting career. Read this autobiographical article and then answer the questions that follow.

Robert Ballard

EXPLORER

Birthday: June 30, 1942

My love affair with the sea began when I was no more than six years old, walking along the sandy beaches of Southern California. I always wanted to make the first set of footprints in the wet sand.

My adventures began in small tidal pools carved in the rocks where creatures of all colors and shapes hid from view or darted back and forth, eager for the rising tide to set them free. Later my adventures took me out on a long pier near my home, where I spent countless hours dangling a baited hook beneath the sea, wondering what monster I might catch.

Unlike many surfers who sought the perfect wave, my interests always lay beneath the sea's surface in a world I could only imagine and dream of. Soon, wearing a snorkel and a mask, I made my first solo adventures in the deep. Later I would learn how to scuba dive, expanding my world of exploration many times over. All along the way, my parents and teachers encouraged my interest in the sea, providing me with books to read or taking me to the ocean once we moved inland and I couldn't reach it by myself.

Perhaps the greatest turning point in my life came when I was in high school and I wrote a letter to the famous Scripps Oceanographic Institution, in San Diego, asking how I might learn more about the sea.

A kind scientist answered my letter and told me how to apply to Scripps for a summer scholarship, which I received. During one of their cruises that summer, I met Dr. Robert Norris, a marine geologist. He loved the sea almost as much as I did.

His passion was infectious. Soon he was asking me what my plans were and where I expected to attend college. I told him I didn't know, so he suggested I consider his school, the University of California in Santa Barbara.

My parents drove me to Santa Barbara for an interview, and one year later I drove there myself, this time as a member of the freshman class.

7 Now my love affair with the sea became a serious endeavor. If I wanted to be an undersea explorer, I needed to learn as much as I could about the laws of the physical world that controlled the environment I wanted to enter. The undersea world is not our natural world. It is unforgiving to those who make mistakes. At its greatest depths the water temperature is near freezing, the pressure is eight tons per square inch, and it is totally dark. It is easy to get lost in such a world. I needed to learn a lot about geography, navigation, meteorology, geology, biology, and many other things. While I was in school, I took a little of everything.

I decided another important thing for me to do was to join the U.S. Navy. If I was going to be an undersea explorer, I would have to lead men and women on dangerous adventures where they might get hurt, and I didn't want that to happen. In the Navy I learned discipline, organization, and how to motivate and lead people on expeditions so that we could explore the wonders of the deep.

Finally, the time came to put all that I had learned to use, to go forth with a team of men and women and explore—an adventure I am still on and hope to be on for many years to come.

- 3** What does the word infectious mean?
- A. ridiculous
 - B. contagious
 - C. bacterial
 - D. immeasurable
- 4** In paragraph 7, Ballard discusses “the laws of the physical world.” Which of the following is an example of one of the laws?
- A. water pressure
 - B. diverse ocean animal life
 - C. the different colors of the ocean
 - D. the appearance of the water
- 5** In paragraph 7, the word endeavor means
- A. incident.
 - B. change.
 - C. lesson.
 - D. effort.
- 6** The prefix *geo-* in geologist means a person who studies
- A. weather.
 - B. medicine.
 - C. Earth’s crust.
 - D. animal behavior.
- 7** Explain how Ballard prepared himself to become an undersea explorer. Use information from the article to support your answer.

8 In college, Ballard took many different types of courses because he

- A. was not sure what he wanted to study.
- B. was advised to take them by Dr. Robert Norris.
- C. thought they were needed to fully understand the ocean.
- D. believed it would help him succeed in the Navy.

10 What would Ballard recommend to students who want to be underwater explorers?

- A. Spend time examining your talents.
- B. Interview explorers to see if they are happy.
- C. Join groups to learn to get along on a team.
- D. Study as many ocean-related topics as you can.

9 Ballard joined the Navy to

- A. learn about the dangers of the ocean.
- B. get along with people under stress.
- C. develop his leadership skills.
- D. gather specific information about ocean life.

1. Ballard meets Dr. Robert Norris.

2. _____

3. Ballard joins the Navy.

4. Ballard becomes an undersea explorer.

11 Which statement belongs on line 2?

- A. Ballard studies navigation and biology.
- B. Ballard falls in love with the ocean.
- C. Ballard leads an expedition in the ocean.
- D. Ballard moves away from the ocean.

12 Explain what personal qualities helped Ballard become a successful underwater explorer. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Acknowledgments

The New Hampshire, Vermont, and Rhode Island Departments of Education wish to acknowledge and credit the following author and publisher for use of their work in the reading portion of the *New England Common Assessment Program*—2005.

“Robert Ballard” (p. 2) autobiography as it appeared in *Talking with Adventurers* compiled and edited by Pat Cummings and Linda Cummings. Copyright © 1998 by Robert Ballard.

Grade 8 Reading Released Item Information

Released Item Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Content Strand ¹	WV	WV	WV	II	WV	WV	II	II	II	II	II	IA
GLE Code	7-2	7-2	7-2	7-7	7-3	7-2	7-7	7-7	7-7	7-7	7-7	7-8
Depth of Knowledge Code	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Item Type ²	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR	MC	MC	MC	MC	MC	CR
Answer Key	C	D	B	A	D	C	C		C	D	A	
Total Possible Points	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4

¹Content Strand: WV = Word ID/Vocabulary, LI = Literary/Initial Understanding, LA = Literary/Analysis & Interpretation,
 II = Informational/Initial Understanding, IA = Informational/Analysis & Interpretation

²Item Type: MC = Multiple-Choice, CR = Constructed Response



**NEW ENGLAND
COMMON ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

**Released Items
Support Materials
2005**

**Grade 8
Reading**

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 READING**

- 7 Explain how Ballard prepared himself to become an undersea explorer. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of how Ballard prepared himself to become an undersea explorer. Response includes relevant information from the article.
3	Response provides an explanation of how Ballard prepared himself to become an undersea explorer. Response includes some information from the article.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of how Ballard prepared himself to become an undersea explorer. Response uses limited information from the article.
1	Response is vague/minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	no response

Training Notes:

Some of the things Ballard did to prepare to be an underwater explorer:

- taught himself to snorkel and then to scuba dive so he could expand his undersea experiences;
- participated in the Scripps Oceanographic Institution summer program in which he was inspired by Dr. Robert Norris;
- attended college at University of California in Santa Barbara because it has a good oceanography department;
- studied many ocean-related topics in school, including geography, navigation, meteorology, geology, biology; and
- joined the Navy to learn leadership skills so he would be able to lead a group of people during a dangerous exploration.

SCORE POINT 4

To become a undersea explorer Ballard prepared himself in many ways. Ballard began by studying in small tidal pools carved in the rocks where creatures lived. He also went fishing to see what kinds of fish he could catch with the bait he used. Ballard went snorkeling in the deep, too. Ballard also went scuba diving to explore what was down in the deep sea. He wrote a letter to the famous Scripps Oceanographic Institution to learn more about the sea. So Ballard went to an interview in Santa Barbara to consider a College, the University of California. So he went there for college. After he decided to become part of the US Navy to help him be organized, disciplined, and motivated.

The response provides a thorough explanation of how Robert Ballard prepared to become an undersea explorer and includes relevant information from the article.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 READING

SCORE POINT 3

Ballard prepared himself to become an undersea explorer by applying to Scripps for the Summer Scholarship, which he got accepted. He also applied for the University of California, where he studied Geography, navigation, meteorology, geology, biology, and many other.. Lastly he joined the U.S Navy where he learned discipline, and organization.

The response provides an explanation of Ballard's preparation in becoming an undersea explorer, with some details.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 READING

SCORE POINT 2

Ballard had a love for the undersea all his life. He started to prepare himself for being a undersea explorer at a very young age of six. Ballard took tons of trips to the beach, read books about the ocean, and asked teachers and parents to help him prepare for more information about the sea.

The response provides a partial explanation with limited details.

SCORE POINT 1

Ballard prepared himself to become an undersea explorer by studying small tidepools.

The response is minimal.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 READING

SCORE POINT 0

He want^o to make
a footprints.

The response does not address the question.

**NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 READING**

- ⑫ Explain what personal qualities helped Ballard become a successful underwater explorer. Use information from the article to support your answer.

Scoring Guide:

Score	Description
4	Response provides a thorough explanation of what personal qualities helped Ballard become a successful underwater explorer. Response includes relevant information from the article.
3	Response provides an explanation of what personal qualities helped Ballard become a successful underwater explorer. Response includes some relevant information from the article.
2	Response provides a partial explanation of what personal qualities helped Ballard become a successful underwater explorer. Response uses limited information from the article.
1	Response is vague/minimal.
0	Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant.
Blank	no response

Training Notes:

- He was very curious as a child and spent long hours exploring tidal pools and snorkeling/diving in the ocean.
- He was persevering as he developed this interest and wrote to the Scripps Oceanographic Institution for advice.
- He was goal-oriented; he attended college and joined the Navy to learn “discipline, organization, and how to motivate and lead people.”
- He was committed to being an underwater explorer for many years.

SCORE POINT 4

Ballard had many personal qualities that helped him become a successful underwater explorer. First, was his actual love of the sea. Starting at age six he was passionately interested in any part of the sea, such as tidal pools. Second, as he grew older, he wanted to learn more. He started out by writing to scientists at the Scripps Oceanographic Institution, for advice. Then he was dedicated to learning about almost everything in college, to understand the sea. He took courses in geography, navigation, biology and many more. He also prepared himself as a leader by joining the Navy. I think his best personal quality was his determination to become an underwater explorer, and to fully prepare himself for the tasks ahead.

The response provides a thorough explanation of the qualities that helped Ballard become a successful underwater explorer and includes relevant information from the article.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 READING

SCORE POINT 3

Some personal qualities of Ballard's are he is patient because he would spend hours fishing in the sea. He is also determined because he went to see Dr. Robert Norris and went to the University of California. Another thing that showed he was determined is when he took all those classes so he could learn more about the ocean. Having those qualities helped him in becoming an underwater explorer.

The response provides an explanation with some relevant information from the article.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 READING

SCORE POINT 2

The personal qualities that helped Ballard become a successful underwater explorer was his passion for the water pushed him to study harder and study other things to help him succeed to be a underwater explorer. He joined the U.S. Navy to learn about the dangers of the ocean.

The response provides a partial explanation with limited details.

NECAP 2005 RELEASED ITEMS
GRADE 8 READING

SCORE POINT 1

He loved the water." My love affair with the sea began when I was no more than six years old.

The response is minimal.

SCORE POINT 0

It was a success because he joined the navy.

The response does not address the question.